of NER during the Ninth Five Year Plan, National Highway-wise, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the actual amount released so far for the same during this period; National Highway-wise, Year-wise, State-wise; and

(c) the details of scheme and programmes formulated by Government for development of roads in the rural areas of the country particularly in the NER States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Central Government allocates the funds for construction and maintenance of National Highways State-wise and not Highway-wise. A statement indicating allocation to different States is given in the Annexure: *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 119]

(c) No specific scheme or programme has been formulated by Central Government for development of roads in rural areas of North-Eastern States since Central Government is mainly responsible for development of National Highways only.

Feasibility study on road link to major ports

4687. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared an action plan to link road network with the major ports since long;

(b) if so, whether various feasibility studies have been completed; and

(c) if so, the details of the further scheduling of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has planned to develop road linkages to major ports namely Calcutta & Haldia in West Bengal, Paradip in Orissa, Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Chennai, Ennore & Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu, Cochin in Kerala, New Mangalore in Karnataka, Mormugao in Goa, Mumbai & Jawaharlal Nehru in Maharashtra and Kandla in Gujarat. The road linkages identified for development include stretches of National Highways as also State roads. As a first

step towards achieving the goal, it is proposed to carry out feasibility study and detailed engineering of the suitable road linkages after studying the entire road network connecting the Port.

(c) Consultancy assignment for feasibility study and detailed engineering related to Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru Port . in Maharastra, Calcutta and Haldia Port in West Bengal, New Mangalore Port in Karnataka, Toticorin Port in Tamil Nadu have been awarded. Consultancy assignments related to Cochin Port in Kerala, Paradip Port in Orissa are to be awarded shortly. Further scheduling will be based on finding of the feasibility studies.

Performance of major ports

4688. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any Programme this year for modernisation of all 11 Major Ports in India.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for Viskhapatnam Port for the modernisation and flotilla; and

(d) what is the achievement, percentage-wise of all 11 major ports with regard to cargo, container traffic and utilisation of funds for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Modernisation infrastructure development of Major Ports is an on going continuous process. The development programmes being undertaken at present lay emphasis on the following aspects aiming at enhancing standards of the Indian Major Ports and their productivity:

— Construction and equipping New Berths
— Acquisition of state of the art Equipment to match the emerging Cargo Mix
— Establishment of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
— Setting up of Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS)
— Labour Training . and Welfare
— Increased role of Private Sector
— Corporatisation of Major Ports